

A NOVEL BEHAVIOR OBSERVED IN HUMPBACK WHALES ON WINTERING GROUNDS AT ABROLHOS BANK (BRAZIL) AND THE COMOROS ARCHIPELAGO (SOUTHEASTERN AFRICA). (ABSTRACT) We describe a novel behavior, termed 'tail-up', observed in humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) on wintering grounds on Abrolhos Bank, Brazil and in the Comoros Islands off southeastern Africa. The behaviour involves the whale positioned vertically in the water column with its tail and a portion of the caudal peduncle in the air. The length of tailing-up time between surfacings to breathe ranged from a few seconds to approximately 15 minutes. The maximum observed duration of a tail-up bout on any one day was ten hours, and some individuals engage in the behavior for two consecutive days. With the exception of calves, tail-up behaviour was observed in all classes of whale. At Abrolhos, tail-ups were recorded in 76 (5.7%) of 1,324 groups observed from a shore station, and in 215 (16.0%) of 1,343 groups observed from vessel surveys; biases in each method

suggest that the true frequency lies between these two figures. Tail-ups differ from 'sailing' behavior in southern right whales in duration and variable orientation of the whale relative to wind direction. The purpose of tail-up behavior is unknown, but its frequency and the prolonged duration of some bouts suggest that it performs an important function, perhaps related to energetics.

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ANTARCTIC PENINSULA HUMPBACK WHALES: RELATIVE ABUNDANCE IN FIVE SUMMER SEASONS (1994/95 - 1998/99) AND MIGRATORY CONNECTIONS BASED ON PHOTO-IDENTIFICATION. (ABSTRACT) Since the austral summer 1994/95 the Chilean Antarctic Institute has supported research on cetaceans of the western coast waters off the Antarctic Peninsula (Bransfield and Gerlache Straits), focused on humpback whales. In five consecutive summers of field work, humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) were the most abundant species after minke whales (*Balaenoptera* spp) and killer whales (*Orcinus orca*). Photo-identification allowed the identification of almost 170 whales in total without matches between the studied five years. Recaptures were obtained only in the same season showing information on local movements and short-term residence in

the feeding grounds. The comparison of ventral fluke pigmentation patterns with breeding grounds of the northern and southern hemispheres supports a close link with Colombian grounds. This phenotypic approach agrees with recent molecular data that recognise a strong migratory connection between the two historical grounds of Stock I, as has been proposed based on whaling data.

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HUMPBACK WHALES ... STOPPING A WHILE IN HERVEY BAY. (POSTER) Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service manage and monitor human interactions near humpback whales and assist whale protection. Whale watch regulations are enforceable under the *Nature Conservation (Whales and Dolphins) Conservation Plan 1997*.

Vessel patrols educate boat users about whale watch regulations and ensure regulation compliance. Signage and brochures have been developed to provide the public with

information on the regulations in a readable and readily understandable form. Diagrams complimenting the written word are also utilised as a means of providing whale watchers with clear information relating to their obligations by law when whale watching.

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